



The Edible Seagrass Meadow

Use food items to represent different parts of a Seagrass Meadow!

Layer ingredients in a blue plastic cup, the cup represents an estuary. An estuary is a waterbody where freshwater from the rivers meets with the salty waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The Estuary provides important habitat for many types of marine organisms. Seagrasses are an important part of the estuary.

- 1 spoonful of vanilla pudding, this represents the substrate (or soil) that the seagrasses grow in.
- Add a spoonful of green coconut; this represents the blades of seagrasses.
- Sprinkle some brown sugar granules on the seagrass meadow and gently shake the estuary from side to side. The sediments are trapped by the seagrass blades, this helps keep the water clear.
- Sprinkle some multi-colored sprinkles on the seagrasses. These sprinkles represent baby crabs, shrimp, and baby fish. Seagrass beds are important nursery areas for juvenile marine organisms.
- Add 3 gummy fish. Large fish live in and around seagrass beds to capture and eat their prey.
- Use a plastic spoon to eat the seagrass meadow. Enjoy!

This activity works well with groups up to 20. Gather students around a table, distribute the estuary and ingredients as you discuss the importance and functions of seagrasses as you layer the ingredients in the estuary!

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